Striking of Oil in Upper Assam

1705. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past oil was struck in a new region in Upper Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) Crude oil has been found in two exploratory wells drilled recently in the Tinkhong-Tinali area of Upper Assam. Further exploratory/developmental efforts are in progress.

Exploration of Oil in Cambay and Cauvery Basin

1706. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union have offered to help India in the exploration of oil in Cambay region in Gujarat and in the Cauvery Basin Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard:

(c) whether Government have accepted the Soviet offers;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the details of the alternative programme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (e) In accordance with the agreement signed on May 22, 1985 between India and the Soviet Union on main directions of economic trade and scientific and technical cooperation. the Soviet Union will carry out intensive integrated exploration for oil and gas in mutually agreed areas in Cambay and Cauvery basins by using their own equipment and experts.

Actual delineation of the areas and the work programme to be undertaken are to be decided by mutual discussions for which a Soviet team would come in August/September, 1985.

Haldor Topse proposal for import of know-now

1707. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official technology policy of Government allows import of know-how in areas of proven indigenous capacity; and

(b) if so, whether Government have given consideration to Haldor Topse's proposal in violation of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) While considering any proposal for import of technology, the stage of indigenous development of technology is fully taken into account.

It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member desires information in respect of the recent proposal for the issuance of industrial licence submitted by M/s. Haldor Topsoe A/S. Denmark for setting up of a plant for the manufacture of co-conversion catalysts, 2000 tonnes per annum. Nickel Catalysts for steam hydrocarbon reforming and nickel catalysts for methanation. 1000 tonnes per annum and Ammonia Synthesis catalysts 600 tonnes per annum. The proposal has been rejected, on *prima facie* consideration for the present.

Orders for Indigenous off-shore supply Vessels

1708. SHRI K. MOHANAN: will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state: